

Washington, D.C., as well as the surrounding areas. The program allows participants to make friends with young leaders from all over the world with a focus on leadership development. At the end of the program, participants receive a certificate of completion.

Alexander is a student at West Springfield High school in Springfield, Virginia. He has been active in his school and community on issues regarding agriculture and environment. It is inspiring to see young people who are interested in educational and developmental experiences such as these.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable achievement by Alexander Hornaday and wishing him continued success in his further pursuits.

#### PTO LETTER

### HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, a fellow southern Californian recently was featured in the LA Times with respect to an issue involving one of his patents ("Defending patents takes financial toll on inventor," LA Times, June 14, 2011). In addition, this week, a letter to the editor from former Senator Birch Bayh appeared in the Congress Blog from Hill.com and referenced a letter that the former Senator recently received from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) about the very same issue.

While I am not weighing in on the merits of this particular case, the underlying issue involved should be of great concern. Therefore, I am submitting the aforementioned PTO letter.

UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE,  
Alexandria, VA, June 3, 2011.

Hon. BIRCH BAYH,  
Venable LLP,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. BAYH: Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of Lawrence Lockwood. The letter indicates that Mr. Lockwood filed a petition for writ of certiorari in the United States Supreme Court seeking review of the Federal Circuit's decision affirming the trial court's holding that state tort claims by patent holders against persons who file sham reexamination requests are preempted by Federal patent law. The letter asks the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to confirm that there are no procedures permitting a damages remedy for patent owners subjected to sham reexamination requests, and to state whether it sees a problem with patent owners pursuing state tort claims for such damages.

The USPTO can confirm that it does not have a procedure that offers a damages remedy for patent owners in Mr. Lockwood's position. As to your request for the USPTO's support of Mr. Lockwood's case, please understand that the USPTO cannot participate in the case without the Solicitor General, who rarely files uninvited amicus briefs at the cert stage. Moreover, any amicus brief would be due very shortly at this point, given that Mr. Lockwood has already filed his petition.

Please know that the USPTO is sympathetic to the concerns of patent owners. The agency is particularly concerned whenever a patent owner is subjected to a fraudulent re-

examination or some other form of harassment. Thus, the USPTO will be monitoring Mr. Lockwood's certiorari petition closely. At the same time, we note that the USPTO has the power to police misconduct through its Office of Enrollment and Discipline (OED). Anyone with knowledge of unethical conduct can report it to OED for investigation.

Sincerely,

DAVID J. KAPPOS,  
Under Secretary and Director.

#### RECOGNIZING MARC SCARBROUGH OF WOODBRIDGE, VA

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Marc Scarbrough of Woodbridge, Va., for his participation in the People to People World Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.

People to People offers young leaders the opportunity to grow educationally while exposing them to new cultures. Founded in 1956 under the auspices of the Eisenhower Administration, People to People has continuously enjoyed Presidential support for its mission of instilling our nation's next generation of leaders with the international experience they will need to succeed in an increasingly global society and economy.

Marc's acceptance to the program is no small accomplishment. Academically selective, the program is built for the brightest students in the nation. From June 30–July 6, Marc participated in numerous educational activities in the Washington, D.C., area, all of which were focused on leadership development. Marc and his fellow participants gained access to areas of American government rarely seen at such a young age, and that experience will serve him well in his studies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Marc Scarbrough and wishing him continued success in the future.

#### CONGRATULATIONS CALLAHAN FAMILY

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my good friend and senior legislative assistant Paul Callahan and his wife Jenni on the birth of their daughter Penelope Joy Callahan. Penelope was born on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, in Alexandria, Virginia. She is welcomed home by her sister, Charlotte, and brother, Judah.

Penelope Joy Callahan is nine pounds and three ounces and 22½ inches of pride and joy to her loving grandparents, Gerald T. and Madonna Callahan of Taylors, South Carolina, and Steve and Pam Crowe of Taylors, South Carolina.

I am so excited for this new blessing to the Callahan family and wish them all the best.

#### ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING CHEMICALS EXPOSURE ELIMINATION ACT OF 2011

### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, for decades our sons and daughters have been exposed to a chemical stew in water, food, fragrances, personal care products, children's toys, and household items. Unfortunately we do not know if this chemical stew is safe for pregnant mothers, their unborn babies, young children, or for that matter, anyone else. That is why I'm pleased today, along with Mr. MAURICE HINCHEY, Mr. GERRY CONNOLLY, Ms. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Ms. LAURA RICHARDSON, Mr. RAÚL GRIJALVA, Ms. JAN SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NITA LOWEY, Mr. BOBBY RUSH, Mrs. LOIS CAPPS, Mr. JAMES MCGOVERN, and Mr. DAVID PRICE, to introduce the "Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals Exposure Elimination Act of 2011." This bill is of enormous importance because it will arm us all with the information that we need to keep our families safe from these potentially harmful chemicals.

There are numerous alarming studies showing increasing disease rates unheard of generations before. Asthma rates have nearly tripled in the past three decades. The United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported this year that one of every six American children has a developmental disorder such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, dyslexia, and mental retardation. A recent study from Korea shows that 4 percent of children have autism spectrum disorder—that is one in every 25 children!

Just this week an extensive University of Michigan study confirmed the correlation of phthalates and bisphenol A (BPA) to thyroid disruption. Thyroid hormones play a vital role in many human physiological processes including fetal and child growth and brain development, as well as energy balance, metabolism, and other functions in the nervous, cardiovascular, pulmonary, and reproductive systems of children and adults. The study confirmed previous reports associating phthalates and BPA with altered thyroid hormones.

Phthalates and BPA are high-production chemicals commonly used in plastics and other applications, including fragrances in perfumes, children's toys, and body-care products. Exposure to these chemicals among Americans is widespread, according to the CDC. Recent studies show a decline in brain development related to phthalates and BPA exposure. Chemically-induced altered thyroid function may also be involved in increased waist circumference, insulin resistance, and diabetes among adults.

Cancer, after accidents, is the leading cause of death among children in the United States. Primary brain cancer increased by nearly 40 percent and leukemia increased by over 60 percent among children 14 years and younger in the last 30 years. Childhood obesity has quadrupled in the past 10 years. Type-2 diabetes has increased drastically. There is an increase in sexual abnormalities, particularly in newborn boys. An analysis of the umbilical cords of a test group of newborns found over 200 chemicals in the blood—chemicals to